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apers Sparked Caracas Revolt

By Drew Pearson

The revolt that upset the jails with political prisoners and operated torture rooms was inspired in large part by the newspapers and western hemisphere.

led by newspaper reporter Fabricio Ojeda, one of the chief revolt leaders, is a working newspaper reporter on El Nacional. "Cipano" Gerassi, columnist for El Nacional, another revolt leader, was



Pearson

jailed some time ago. He went into jail weighing 200 pounds, came out a thin man.

Publisher of El Nacional is Miguel Otero Silva, Venezuelan poet, who has built up one of the liveliest news staffs in the western hemisphere. Like American editors and publishers when the 13 colonies revolted against England, Venezuelan newsmen had more to do with the downfall of Perez Jimenez than any other single factor.

In the lead also was the Catholic publication, La Religion, with a small circulation but plenty of courage. It was the first to brave the dictator.

Publisher Otero, though pro-American, is not permitted to enter the United States because of the McCarran Act. He admits that he was once a member of the Communist Party.

Returning from Paris on Air France, he had some time to kill in New York and, for some reason, U. S. immigration authorities let him go into Manhattan. Afterward Otero remarked:

"I was surprised at your famed immigration people. They slipped up. They let me go into New York where I dropped in at St. Patrick's Cathedral, lunched at the Ritz, bought a present for my wife at Tiffany's and never even blew up the Brooklyn Bridge."

What made the Venezuelan political ground ripe for revolt was the personal behavior of Perez Jimenez and the men around him. The Catholic church began turning against them when they took additional wives and mistresses. The richer they got the more brazen they were in kicking out

Dulles Lauded Nation

In Washington, the Venezuelan revolt did not take the Administration by surprise. Chief Allen Dulles had privately predicted it was coming.

Earlier, however, his brother, the Secretary of State, had gone out of his way to praise the Perez Jimenez regime. Testifying before the Senate Finance Committee, March 23, 1955, Dulles said:

"Venezuela is a country that has adopted the kind of policies which we think the other countries of South America should adopt; namely, they have adopted the kind of policies which provide in Venezuela a climate that is attractive to foreign capital to come in."

Six days later, March 29, 1955, John Foster was telling the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the key to the United States role in western civilization was its "dedication to human liberty and dignity."

Bow and Arrow War

Two California Democrats, Reps. Chet Hollifield and John Moss, were musing outside the House of Representatives about the bow and arrow invented by a scientist during World War II and still kept under secrecy wraps by the Pentagon 13 years later.

"You know," opined Moss, "it might not be such a bad idea to keep that bow and arrow secret. After the next war is fought with nuclear bombs, bows and arrows may be all we have left to fight with."

"That's right," agreed Hollifield. "In fact, it might even be a good idea to slap a secrecy classification on sticks and stones. We might need them to fight with, too."

Merry-Go-Round

Don Ross, who resigned as U. S. Attorney in Nebraska when he got mixed up in the Superior Oil attempts to bribe Senators to put across the national gas bill, is now trying to stage a comeback by being elected Republican National